

On behalf of the people of the 7th Congressional District of Washington, I extend sincere sympathy to the family and friends of PO 2d Class David Bosley of San Mateo, CA, PO 3d Class Matthew Schlimme of Whitewater, MO, and Seaman Clinton Miniken of Snohomish, WA. We extend our best wishes for a rapid and complete recovery to Seaman Apprentice Benjamin Wingo of Bremerton, WA.

To Adm. David Spade, Commander, and all members of the 13th Coast Guard District, we extend deep appreciation for the professional accomplishment of your mission of search and rescue, vessel traffic safety, and marine environmental protection. We too frequently take for granted that the Coast Guard is always prepared for an emergency and we fail to recognize the vital contribution of your entire command in support of economic prosperity and the enjoyment we derive from our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD this tribute from the editors of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer printed on February 19, 1997, the date of the memorial services:

HONORING HEROES OF THE SEA

The 23rd verse of the 107th Psalm speaks of "they that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters."

The members of the U.S. Coast Guard daily do business in great waters. Often it is the business of saving lives. Sometimes the cost of doing business is the loss of their own lives.

So the mourning bells will ring today in Seattle and LaPush for three District 13 Coast Guardsmen who died exactly one week ago during the rescue of a couple on a damaged sailboat off the mouth of the Quillayute River. The couple survived, rescued by a Coast Guard helicopter out of Port Angeles. One member of the guard's 44-foot motor lifeboat, Benjamin Wingo, 19, of Bremerton, also survived.

The rest of the crew did not. Killed were Petty Officer 2nd Class David Bosley, 36; Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew Schlimme, 24, and Seaman Clinton Miniken, 22. They died when the lifeboat, a Coast Guard workhorse for 35 years, was repeatedly overturned by 25-foot seas and winds as high as 45 knots crossing the Quillayute bar.

That bar already had a reputation as a killer, claiming the lives of seven crewmembers of the fishing boat Gambler in 1990.

The last time a Coast Guardsman was killed in the line of duty anywhere in the Northwest was in 1991 during the rescue of a capsized fishing boat off the Columbia River.

During 1996, the 13th Coast Guard District, which includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, was credited with coming to the aid of more than 8,000 individuals, saving 381 lives and rescuing nearly \$267 million in property.

The Psalm's story has a happy ending. After its sailors ride stormy seas on which they "mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths . . . and are at their wit's end," God calms the seas and "bringeth them unto their desired haven."

A week ago the seas were not calmed and the three Coast Guardsmen failed to reach safe haven.

"He was my hero," said Sandi Bosley of her husband David Bosley, the coxswain of the ill-fated vessel.

Today we join family and friends in mourning the deaths, and celebrating the lives, of all these heroes.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a bill that would grant permanent most-favored-nation status to the People's Republic of China upon its entry into the World Trade Organization. Under the rules of the WTO, each member country must grant permanent MFN to all other member countries. As the administration moves forward in its WTO talks with the Chinese, it is imperative that commercially viable terms of entry are negotiated. The WTO is America's best weapon against the forces of protectionism and predatory mercantilism. China's entry into the WTO is in America's national interest. First, entry into the WTO will require China to further liberalize its trade regime by lowering tariffs and eliminating many nontariff barriers that American goods face. Second, the WTO provides a more useful forum for resolution of trade disputes than the bilateral approach now in place with China. It is important to note that WTO membership is not a gift to China. The administration is negotiating tough commercial terms upon which China will enter and these terms will define United States-China trade in the future.

Perhaps the most important reason that we should be pushing for China's accession to the WTO is the level playing field that this membership would provide for United States exporters. Currently, exporting to China can be a very costly and timeconsuming endeavor for American producers. There are many nontariff barriers that, intentionally or not, impede market access. There is a certain amount of discriminatory treatment of products that will be difficult for the Chinese to continue when under the jurisdiction of the WTO. Transparency is also a big problem in China. It is difficult to find out which laws and regulations apply to which products and when do they apply. As a WTO member China's import policies will have to become more transparent and more defined. This will allow American exporters to conduct business in China by following internationally recognized trade practices. China's trade regime will have to conform to these international principles.

The United States exports less, as a percentage of GDP, than any other industrialized nation. Enhancing and increasing U.S. export performance will be essential as we search for ways to improve and increase economic growth in the U.S. economy. China's vast market potential, combined with the discipline of market forces and liberalized trade policies, are a positive step toward increasing market access for American exports.

AID TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue which disturbs me to no end. Just last week, I introduced a bill, H.R. 849, to close a loophole that allowed an illegal immigrant to obtain \$12,000 in Federal housing assistance.

One week ago, I sent letters to INS Director Doris Meissner and HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo to find out just how this could have happened. Why did HUD not immediately contact the INS to report an illegal alien residing in this country? And why has INS still done nothing to address the situation? Mr. Speaker, this begs the question, what good are laws if our Federal agencies do nothing to enforce them?

People write and call my office every day for an explanation. And it's not just my constituents. Word of this unbelievable act has spread from my hometown in southern California clear across the country. Hardworking Americans who know the value of citizenship want to know why their tax dollars continue to be given away to illegal immigrants.

I urge my colleagues to support my legislation, H.R. 849, and to join in the call for an explanation of why this is still occurring. Mr. Speaker, the people want an answer.

INDIA DETAINS HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST KUMAR

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, last year Members received from the Council of Khalistan an excellent video entitled "Disappearances in Punjab," an expose of the massive human rights abuse in Punjab, Khalistan under Indian rule. Now I have been informed that last month the Indian regime briefly detained the maker of that film, Ram Narayan Kumar. Mr. Kumar is a Hindu and a human rights activist.

According to a letter Mr. Kumar wrote to the Indian Home Minister, he was illegally detained and interrogated at the Delhi airport on the night of January 19-20 as he was leaving the country to return to his home in Austria. Mr. Kumar has written a book on the situation in Punjab, Khalistan which the regime apparently does not like.

Mr. Kumar was detained for 19 months in the 1970's because he criticized the dictatorial measures of Indira Gandhi. He was incarcerated again in 1982 for leading a strike. As a member of the Committee for Information and Initiative on Punjab, Mr. Kumar has been actively involved in documenting and exposing human rights violations in Punjab, Khalistan.

Like Jaswant Singh Khaira, who remains in the bowels of the Indian system after 17 months, Mr. Kumar ran afoul of the Indian state for exposing the truth about Indian "democracy." Clearly, the regime's fear of exposure is growing. Why would a Democratic country be afraid of the truth?

Maybe it's because they are afraid that the inevitable collapse of India is on the horizon. With a 13-party coalition running the central government, it is inherently unstable. According to a letter that appeared in the Washington Post on January 26, there are 17 insurgencies going on in India. That is no surprise. The regime has murdered tens of thousands of Sikhs, Christians in Nagaland, Muslims in Kashmir, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits—black untouchables, and others. In this light, is it any wonder that so many countries are trying to free themselves from Indian rule?

The illegal detention of Mr. Kumar merely advertises to the world the fact that India is

not a Democratic state in any real sense. This leads me to ask why the overburdened taxpayers of the United States should be taxed to support this brutal, tyrannical regime. As the world's only superpower and the leader of the worldwide movement to freedom, it is America's obligation to support those who struggle peacefully for freedom.

We should demand that India apologize to Mr. Kumar for violating his rights and that it stop violating the basic liberties of those under its control. If India cannot meet even the most basic standards of human rights, it is not worthy of our support. We should impose an embargo on Indian and cut off aid from this country. We should also speak out strongly in support of the freedom movements in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all over South Asia. This is the best way to protect American values and interests in that part of the world.

I am introducing Mr. Kumar's letter into the RECORD.

RAM NARAYAN KUMAR,

Klagenfurt, Austria, 2 February 1997.

UNION MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS,

The Govt. of India, South Block, New Delhi.

Sub: My illegal detention and interrogation about my forthcoming book on Punjab at Delhi's airport on 19-20th night of January 1997.

SIR: I am writing this letter to protest against my illegal detention and interrogation at Delhi's international airport on January 19-20th night, when I was leaving the country with the British Airways flight BA 142 to join my wife in Austria. Before elucidating, I will introduce myself and my work to the extent it seems to bear on the incident.

My name is Ram Narayan Kumar. I am a writer by profession, and have published three books. My last book titled "The Sikh Unrest and the Indian State: Politics, personalities and historical retrospective" is due to be released early next month by Ajanta Publications of Delhi. In India I live at "Srinivas", Krawal Nagar, Delhi 94. My telephone number there is: 2262421. My wife, a doctor, is an Austrian national. Our address in Austria is: 60/7 Mühlgasse, 9020 Klagenfurt.

I remain an Indian citizen, and travel on passport number S 647894, issued by the Indian Embassy at Vienna on 24 June 1996.

I have been engaged in documenting and disseminating information on human rights violations by the State authorities from the time Indira Gandhi imposed the Emergency in June 1975. During that period, I was detained without trial for nineteen months for criticizing the dictatorial measures she had employed to conserve her regime. I was again incarcerated for leading a strike of colliery workers in Madhya Pradesh, culminating in the hostage case of New Delhi in April 1982. The experiences and considerations that guide my public life, and the chronology of my involvements until 1988, are part of a book—"Confronting the Hindu Sphinx"—published in 1992.

For the last eight years, I have been involved in documenting reports of State atrocities in Punjab. As a member of the Committee for Information and Initiative on Punjab, I have taken active part in collating and verifying the evidence, also by way of video recording, which forms the basis of a petition that is pending before the Supreme Court. The petition shows that in the period from 1992 to 1994 the Punjab police have illegally cremated thousands of dead bodies by labelling them as unidentified. The petition also supplies evidence to establish that many persons so cremated had earlier been picked up by the security forces. The facts regard-

ing the illegal cremations, as shown in our petition, have been authenticated by the Central Bureau of Investigation which has investigated the allegations at the order of the Supreme Court. The matter is now pending before the National Human Rights Commission for the examination of all the issues that attend on the establishment of these facts. Jaswant Singh Khrala, General Secretary of the Akali Dal's Human Rights Wing and a resident of Amritsar, had helped me in this work of documentation. In early September 1995, Khrala got kidnapped by armed commandos of the Punjab police. Khrala's whereabouts remain unknown, and I suspect that he has been done away with. After Khrala's abduction, I put together a short documentary film from the video material he had helped me to gather. This film has been used by several human rights groups in India and abroad to campaign for Khrala's release. Clearly, the film upset the Indian authorities. In fact, one Mr. Bedi of the Indian Embassy in Vienna rebuked me for defaming India. This row about defaming India, which divides the protagonists of the establishment and their critics, follows from divergent positions of empathy. From my position, to defame the abuse of power is to extol the humanity of those who, otherwise, become its mute victims. This same Mr. Bedi telephoned me, in early September 1996, to ask when I planned to return to India next. I was surprised that the Indian Embassy should count on me to support its snooping about my activities. Later in Delhi, some officers who would not identify themselves called on me to ask "some questions". I told them to come back with their identification cards. They never returned.

On 20 January 1997, I was going to return to Austria after spending four months in India. After checking in with the British Airways around 10 p.m. of 19 January 1997, I went to the immigration counter. The officer there took my passport, looked in his computer, and asked me if I had produced a video film on Punjab. I acknowledged having done a documentary. After scanning his computer for a while, the officer asked me to step aside and to take a chair within the enclosure of his superior who was overseeing the movement at all the counters: "It will take some time to clear you," he told me. Soon after midnight, one person appeared at my side to ask if I had authored a book titled "The Sikh Unrest in Punjab and the Indian State". As he seemed all prepared to interrogate, I asked him to identify himself. "My senior officers would soon arrive", he said to skip my question. I wished to telephone a lawyer friend. But this he would not allow: "You are under detention. Forget your flight and about contacting anyone," he told me.

After midnight, I was led to a room for interrogation. I found myself surrounded by almost twenty-five officers. I asked them to identify themselves, and to spell out the legal basis on which I was being detained and interrogated. Their response: "Don't waste time on legal etiquettes. This is a joint interrogation. We would not tell you more. You would complicate matters for yourself by insisting on legal formalities." I was asked to explain what my forthcoming book on Punjab contained. I told them that it was a long work which took me years to complete. I could not give its substance to them in choice morsels, as they were demanding. "Give us the gist in a nutshell", my interrogators insisted. I had no option but to try. My interrogators kept taking notes, interrupting me intermittently to help them formulate sentences for their report.

After settling their report on the book, they compelled me to narrate the chronology of my own political and person background. I told them to consult the book "Confronting

the Hindu Sphinx", which is partly autobiographical and covers the main events of my life till 1988. But the would not be deterred from having the story from the horse's mouth. They also forced me to pose for a photograph, and went on to compel me to give information on my relatives and close associates.

My interrogation lasted till five in the morning of 20 January. I was able to leave the next day due to the courtesy of the British Airways. They confirmed my reservation although the validity of my return ticket, which I had purchased in Austria, had already expired. I had mentioned the expiry of my ticket to my interrogators: It would become their responsibility to arrange my flight if I should lose my ticket because of their illegal action. Their answer: They could not bother how and when I fly again.

At the end of it all, I remain baffled about the significance of this episode. Why did not my interrogators identify themselves if they were acting under the law? It was a joint interrogation, and a large number of senior officers took part. Which organizations did they represent? Whose orders were they carrying out? The interrogation concerned mainly the forthcoming book. What was the idea? The interrogation makes no sense even if I assume that the authorities might be contemplating a ban on the book. This could not be done until someone carefully reads it. Or, was the aim to demonstrate the coercive powers of the Indian State, to suggest that unless I taper down my human rights work and begin to cooperate with the authorities, my life would become difficult?

I have no intention to give up my commitments, no matter what the circumstances and pressures. I do not expect any regard from the authorities but on the basis of fairness and legality, common to all. I complain because the tactics adopted by the Indian Embassy in Austria, the officers who visited me at my house in Delhi and finally my interrogators at Delhi's airport are illegal, intimidating and constitute direct violation of my fundamental rights. I also fear that the agencies that have orchestrated my interrogation may further try to damage the circulation of my book by intimidating the publisher and by taking recourse to other unlawful ways.

I sincerely hope that you will act on my complaint. Please, initiate suitable action against the agencies responsible for infringing my rights as a citizen and a writer. Please, also ensure that they do not persist in harassing me, my relatives and associates in unlawful ways.

Sincerely yours,

RAM NARAYAN KUMAR.

SOLDIERS FROM THE SUPPLY
PLATOON OF THE 1019TH QUAR-
TER MASTER COMPANY RETURN
HOME FROM THEIR PEACEKEEP-
ING MISSION IN HUNGARY

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take this opportunity to welcome home to Syracuse the 29 soldiers of the Supply Platoon of the 1019th Quartermaster Company after a very successful mission in the region of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These dedicated Central New Yorkers spent the past 6 months as part of the U.S. Peacekeeping Mission. They were stationed in Hungary, where they provided support for Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Joint